

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY DOT/TAD/WPIEPER

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R 060157Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 055094

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. BY BELGIAN MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

REF: STATE 227204 SEPT 75

1. BY FURTHER EXCHANGES OF LETTERS, DOT DEPUTY SECRETARY BARNUM HAS PROPOSED A VISIT PROGRAM TO MINISTER CHABERT WHO, IN TURN, HAS RESPONDED THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED PROGRAM WITH PLEASURE.

2. AS RESULT DOT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT DEVELOPED PROGRAM TO MUCH GREATER DEGREE AND IS COORDINATING WITH STORM OF BELGIAN EMBASSY. STORM WAS PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF BARNUM/CHABERT LETTERS AND DETAILED ITINERARY ON FEB. 5 AND ONLY COMMENT RECEIVED TO DATE WAS QUESTION ABOUT PURPOSE OF VISIT TO TAMPA, FLA.

3. BRIEF OUTLINE OF PROPOSED ITINERARY FOLLOWS:

APRIL 11 ARRIVE WASHINGTON.

APRIL 12 A.M. CALL ON SEC. COLEMAN.

LUNCHEON WITH COLEMAN.

P.M. DISCUSSIONS AT DOT AND STATE

EVENING SOCIAL EVENT (NOT FIRM)

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APRIL 13 A.M. TO MORGANTOWN, W.VA. BY DOT AIRCRAFT.

TOUR UMTA PROJECT

P.M. TO TAMPA, FLA. BY COMMERCIAL AIR.

APRIL 14 A.M. VISIT TAMPA INT'L AIRPORT.

P.M. TO HOUSTON BY COMMERCIAL AIR.

APRIL 15 VISIT HOUSTON PORT - VESSEL TRAFFIC

CONTROL AND PORT SAFETY SYSTEM.

APRIL 16 A.M. TO PUEBLO, COL.

P.M. TOUR DOT TRANSPORTATION TEST CENTER.

TO DENVER OR SALT LAKE FOR SKIING

WEEKEND.

APRIL 19 A.M. TO SAN FRANCISCO

VISIT BART

APRIL 20 RETURN TO EAST COAST

APRIL 21 - ? CHABERT INDICATED HE WISHES TO SPEND

TIME WITH RELATIVES IN BOSTON AREA.

FURTHER HE WISHES, ACCORDING TO

EMBASSY, TO VISIT A MODERN CONTAINER

PORT WHICH WE PROPOSE TO BE NEW YORK

PORT AUTHORITIES OPERATION. WE HAVE

NO INDICATION OF HIS DEPARTURE DATE.

4. DOT HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO STORM THAT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS IS BELGIAN RESPONSIBILITY HOWEVER DOT WILL PROVIDE AIRCRAFT FOR WASHINGTON-MORGANTOWN-WASHINGTON TRIP ON APRIL 13. ADDITIONALLY DOT MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE CHABERT APPROPRIATELY HOSTED AT VARIOUS STOPS IN ITINERARY AND EXPECTS INVITATIONS WILL BE EXTENDED FOR THE MAJORITY OF LUNCHEES AND DINNERS. FURTHER, DOT HAS INDICATION PRIVATE ACCOMMODATIONS MOST LIKELY AVAILABLE AT NO COST FOR SKIING WEEKEND (WHICH CHABERT REQUESTED). DOT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT HAS OFFERED TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR BOTH TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED NECESSARY INFORMATION SUCH AS NAMES OF OFFICIAL PARTY, PREFERENCES REGARDING TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS, ETC. PROVIDED.

5. DOT VERY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING FULL APPROVAL FROM CHABERT ON PROPOSED PROGRAM AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH STORM. HOWEVER ANY OPPORTUNITY EMBASSY MAY HAVE TO ENCOURAGE EARLY DECISION SHOULD BE EXPLOITED. KISSINGER
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